

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**GEORGE HERBERT, and JEFFERY
CREIGHTON, individually,**

Plaintiffs,

vs.

**ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY,**

Defendant.

Civil Action No.

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiffs GEORGE HERBERT, and JEFFERY CREIGHTON, individually, (collectively “Plaintiffs”) and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through their attorneys, upon personal knowledge as to themselves and upon information and belief as to other matters, bring this Collective Action Complaint against Defendant ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY and allege as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit seeking recovery against Defendant for Defendant’s violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended (the “FLSA” or the “Act”), 29 U.S.C. §201 et. seq. and the New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a et seq. (“NJWHL”).

2. Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit against Defendant as a collective action on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated – Correctional officers – who suffered damages as a result of Defendant’s violations of the FLSA pursuant to the collective action provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

3. Plaintiffs also bring this lawsuit against Defendant as a collective action on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated –Correctional officers – who suffered damages as a result of Defendant’s violations of the NJWHL pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs FLSA claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and by 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs NJWHL claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1367.

6. Venue is proper in the District of New Jersey pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.

7. At all times material hereto, Plaintiffs performed non-exempt duties for the Defendant in Atlantic County, New Jersey, within the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

8. Plaintiffs are individuals residing in Atlantic County, New Jersey.

9. At all times pertinent to this Complaint, the Defendant ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY was an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of interstate goods for commerce as defined by the Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 203(r) and 203(s).

10. This Defendant is within the personal jurisdiction and venue of this Court. Defendant directly or indirectly acted in the interest of an employer towards Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees, at all material times, including without limitation directly or

indirectly controlling the terms of employment of Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees.

PARTIES

Defendant

11. Defendant, ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (“ACD”), is a governmental agency providing (Correctional officers) services through the Atlantic County Department of Public Safety, New Jersey.

12. Upon information and belief, ACDPS’s principle executive office is located in Atlantic County, New Jersey.

13. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this Complaint, ACDPS’s employs persons such as Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees to work on its behalf in providing labor for its benefit.

14. At all times relevant to this Complaint, ACDPS’s was and is an employer engaged in commerce under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.

Plaintiffs

15. Plaintiff George Herbert was hired by Defendant as a correctional officer in approximately (October) 10/1995 and is currently employed by Defendant.

16. Plaintiff Jeffery Creighton was hired by Defendant as a correctional officer in approximately (March) 03/2004 and is currently employed by Defendant.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

17. Plaintiffs sue on their own behalf and on behalf of a collective action of persons under Rules 23(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

18. Plaintiffs bring their NJWHL claims on behalf of all persons who were employed by Defendant at any time since July, 2010, to the entry of judgment in this case (the “Collective Period”), who were employed by Defendant as correctional officers, who were non-exempt employees within the meaning of the NJWHL, and who have not been paid for all hours worked by them, and have not been paid overtime wages (the “Collective”).

FACTS

19. Based upon the information preliminarily available, and subject to discovery in this cause, Defendant did not properly compensate Plaintiffs, and those similarly situated employees, for all overtime hours worked in a work week.

20. Defendant has engaged in a widespread pattern, policy, and practice of violating the FLSA and NJWHL, as described in this Complaint.

21. At all times material hereto, Plaintiffs and all similarly situated employees were performing their duties for the benefit of and on behalf of Defendant.

22. This cause of action is brought to recover from Defendant overtime compensation, liquidated damages, and the costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees under the provisions of 29 U.S.C. §216(b), as well as applicable provisions of NJWHL, on behalf of Plaintiffs and all other current and former employees similarly situated during the material time.

23. The records, if any, concerning the number of hours worked by Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated employees as Plaintiffs are in the possession and custody of Defendant.

24. The records, if any, concerning the compensation actually paid to Plaintiffs and all other similarly situated employees are in the possession and custody of Defendant.

25. At all times pertinent to this complaint, Defendant failed to comply with Title 29 U.S.C. §§ 201-209, as well as applicable provisions of the NJWHL, in that Plaintiffs and those

similarly situated employees performed services and labor for Defendant for which Defendant made no provision to pay Plaintiffs and other similarly situated employees compensation to which they were lawfully entitled for all of the hours worked in excess of forty (40) within a work week.

26. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are Defendant's non-exempt employees who have worked overtime hours in one or more work periods, on or after June 2010, and did not receive time and one-half of their regular rate of pay.

27. Plaintiffs have retained the law office of Jaffe Glenn Law Group, P.A. to represent them individually and incurred attorneys' fees and costs in bringing this action. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), Plaintiffs are entitled to recovery of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

COUNT I
RECOVERY OF OVERTIME COMPENSATION
PURSUANT TO THE FLSA

28. Plaintiffs re-allege, and incorporate here by reference, all allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 27 above.

29. Plaintiffs are entitled to be paid time and one-half of their regular rate of pay for each overtime hour worked per work period.

30. All similarly situated employees of Defendant are similarly owed their overtime rate for each overtime hour they worked and were not properly paid.

31. Defendant knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and the other similarly situated to them at time and one half of their regular rate of pay for their overtime hours worked in a work period.

32. By reason of the said intentional, willful, and unlawful acts of Defendant, Plaintiffs and those similarly employees have suffered damages plus incurring costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

33. As a result of Defendant's willful violations of the Act, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated employees are entitled to liquidated damages.

COUNT II
RECOVERY OF OVERTIME COMPENSATION
PURSUANT TO THE NJWHL

34. Plaintiffs re-allege, and incorporate here by reference, all allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 33 above.

35. Defendant's aforementioned conduct is in violation of the NJWHL.

36. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's actions, Plaintiffs suffered damages, including but not limited to past lost earnings.

37. Plaintiffs demand a jury trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, GEORGE HERBERT, and JEFFREY CREIGHTON, individually, and those similarly situated to them who have or will become part of this collective action, demand judgment, against Defendant, ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, for the payment of compensation for all overtime hours at one and one-half their regular rate of pay due them for the hours worked by them for which they have not been properly compensated, liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, and for all other appropriate relief.

Dated: July 9, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

/s Andrew I. Glenn

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